

~~TOP SECRET~~

29 July 1955

ORGANIZATION AND DELINEATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES PROJECT OILSTONE

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1. Director of [] - Chief of Staff, USAF: The primary responsibility at this level shall be the formation of broad policy, to determine the implications of the project's operation on national and international policy, and to make recommendations to higher authority accordingly. Further, it shall be their joint responsibility to resolve differences that may arise at lower staff and operating levels.

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2. [] USAF Project Director - Air Force Project Director: The primary responsibility at this level shall be the development and execution of all activities concerning the project within their own organizations; the free exchange of information; the detailed planning within their own organizations; the resolution of differences that may arise at lower echelons; and to report progress and make recommendations to their respective chiefs.

3. Elements of Organization: Subject to policy guidance to be developed and furnished as indicated above, the functions of the several elements engaged in the conduct of operations will be as follows:

a. The joint Project Headquarters will be responsible for any continued research and development, operational planning, and the direction and control of final phase operations. (Final phase operations are those involving actual overflights.)

b. The Air Force, employing selected officers in the Air Staff, shall be responsible for implementing plans approved by the [] USAF Project Director and by the Air Force Project Director in the name of the Chief of Staff, USAF. Generally, this function will be to arrange for Air Force support of project activities which can appropriately be furnished through staff channels or by commands other than the Strategic Air Command. Appropriate Directors of the Air Staff will designate points of contact within their offices. Officers so designated will assist the Task Force as required.

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c. All military personnel assigned for full-time duty to the project for duty under [] direction on permanent status shall be carried on the rolls of a newly activated support squadron in accordance with current procedures. The Air Force Deputy to the [] Project Director will command this administrative squadron.

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d. Commander, SAC, will be assigned primary responsibility for providing and coordinating Air Force support of the Project. He will form a new subordinate headquarters which will be manned by him from resources available to him. Requirements for certain types of personnel and equipment not under his control will be stated to Headquarters, USAF (the Air Force Project Officer) and will be met from other resources as stated in paragraph 3b above.

4. Phases: Activities under this Project fall into three separate phases. These overlap one another in time but may be distinguished on the basis of the kinds of activities involved in each, as follows:

a. The first phase of the Project, now well advanced, is that in which the major activities have been research and development, procurement, the organization of the joint Project Headquarters, the construction and activation of a test and training base, the initial testing of equipment, and operational planning. Phase I activities are in progress and will also overlap the beginning of Phase III.

b. The second phase, which is expected to begin in mid-autumn 1956, will be devoted to training, the shake-down of equipment, and deployment overseas. Phase II activities terminate with the decision that crews and equipment are operationally ready.

c. The third phase will be that of active operations from overseas bases. This phase follows the decision as to operational readiness which terminates Phase II.

5. Phase I: The Project Director shall have control of Phase I activities including the planning and recruiting of personnel under his control. The Air Force will furnish necessary support which will be a matter for agreement at Project Director level. Full and complete coordination with all Air Force elements during this phase is essential.

6. Phase II: A special facility to be used for the testing of equipment and the final training of personnel has already been activated. It is anticipated that Phase II activities will be carried on mainly at the test and training base.

a. Commander, SAC, will assign (or approve the assignment of) officers to direct and supervise the training of operational units (referred to in paragraph 7a below) and to satisfy themselves as to the state of readiness

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of these units and their equipment. Command of these officers and control of training activities will be exercised by the Commander, SAC, through the subordinate headquarters to be formed by him.

b. The Commander, SAC, will provide support (in accordance with paragraph 3d above) during this phase and will arrange for the deployment of operational units overseas at the end of this phase through his subordinate headquarters.

c. During Phase II the normal line of command on matters concerning the scale and character of training, Air Force support, and the mechanics of deployment shall be through the Commander, SAC, and the sub-unit/ subordinate headquarters to be organized.

7. It is anticipated that when the maximum capability contemplated in this operation has been achieved, operations will be in progress simultaneously from three overseas bases.

a. The joint Project Headquarters will establish operational units to be stationed at the overseas bases. These units will be composed of specialized civilian technical personnel, [REDACTED] Case Officers responsible for relations with host governments and their clandestine services, and [REDACTED] administrative and security personnel. Each unit will include Air Force personnel, number to be agreed upon. Operational units will pass to full operational control of the joint Project Headquarters in Phase III.

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b. Commander, SAC, will establish overseas units controlled by him through the Commander of the special unit to be formed, to perform supporting functions as required by the Project Headquarters and agreed by Commander, SAC, or Chief of Staff, USAF. Each such operational unit will be dependent upon its corresponding Air Force support unit.

c. In Phase III, the final decision as to execution and timing of actual overflight missions shall rest with the Project Director subject to such guidance as he may receive from higher authority. The line of command shall be direct between operational units and the Project Director.

APPROVED FOR USAF:

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MEMORANDUM FOR: **General Briggs**
General Everest

Here are my suggestions for some changes in wording in your draft paper. The main change I have made has been to incorporate the definitions of phases into the body of the paper which, I believe, makes it somewhat clearer. The underlined language is new; that which is not underlined is all taken from your 28 July draft.

Richard M. Bissell, jr.

29 July 1955

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FORM NO. **101** REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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